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LIST POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SABOTAGE IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

EAST GERMANS STEP UP TEMPO OF TERROR TACTICS -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 11 Feb 51

Berlin, 10 February -- The East German police and courts of law are working at a frenzied pace. According to various reports from informed sources, the number of arrests made in the German Democratic Republic has increased by 50 percent during the past 3 months, and the courts have passed 23,000 sentences during the same period.

The number of sentences imposed for sabotage is reported to have increased 52 percent and the number of indictments for failure to meet state-prescribed production quotas, especially in the textile, coal mining, and transportation industries, has risen more than 40 percent.

According to a report from the Society of Victims of Russian Concentration Camps, half of the prisoners sentenced to penal labor in the Waldheim penitentiary in Sachsen have been moved to the south of the USSR in recent weeks. About a thousand prisoners, shackled to one another, are reported to have been seen being driven to the railroad station.

Minister-President Grotewohl has ordered intensified state control in all spheres of East German politics, economy, and culture, for the purpose of exposing "anti-Communist saboteurs."

POLITICAL OFFENDERS GET 70,000 YEARS IN PRISON -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 28 Feb 51

Berlin, 22 February 1951 -- The DPA (press agency) reports that the Investigation Committee of Liberal Jurists in Soviet Zone Germany shows up the marked contrast between the sentences passed by West Berlin courts and those imposed by the penal tribunals of the Soviet Zone.

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A statistical study of the committee indicates that the majority of the 2,657 persons arrested in West Berlin for illegal (Communist) propaganda activities during 1950 were released at once. Only a very few persons were committed to prisons on charges of resisting the authority of the state or of inflicting bodily injuries. Their collective sentences totaled 32 years, 7 months, and 7 days.

East German penal institutions and Soviet military tribunals, on the other hand, have imposed 63,034 years' imprisonment in 17,012 judgments during 1950. The offenses were inciting to boycot of the Soviet Union, and anti-Communist activities. Furthermore, East German courts sentenced 17,900 persons to 7,604 years' penal servitude and to 16,800 years' imprisonment for alleged economic sabotage and so-called "economic crimes."

The average penalty for illegal distribution of Communist propaganda material in West Berlin was 4 weeks' imprisonment, whereas the average penalty for distributing anti-Communist propaganda material in the Soviet Zone called for 4 years in a penitentiary.

SACHSEN-ANHALT TRIES ECONOMIC SABOTEURS -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 12 Feb 51

Sachsen-Anhalt's third spectacular mock trial within a year is taking place in Bernburg. The proceedings were instituted against the former management of the DSG (Deutsche Saatzuchtgesellschaft), the East German seed cultivation enterprise, nearly all of whose top-level employees have been arrested by the People's Police for having committed acts of sabotage. Among the defendants are Hans Buss, administrator of the DSG's Bernburg enterprises; Josef Maier, business manager; Adolf Spreter, chief agronomist; and the technician Herbert Diesing. Lemke (fnu), who has escaped to West Germany, is being tried in absentia.

TRACK DOWN SABOTEURS OF EAST GERMAN MINES -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 5 Feb 51

The DPA press agency reports that the East German Security Police has begun to track down saboteurs in the Sachsen mining area, because production has been unsatisfactory.

Reportedly, 30 acts of sabotage took place at the Karl Marx mines during January. Six men, all members of the SED, are said to have been arrested.

OVER 25,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN GDR -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 14 Feb 51

According to a UP dispatch, the Investigation Committee of Free Jurists has ascertained that there were 25,100 political prisoners in Soviet Zone Germany at the beginning of January 1951. Furthermore, 6,000 persons were serving sentences for acts of economic sabotage, and 12,000 for common crimes.

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